



NEWS FROM Congressman Nathan Deal Ninth District of Georgia

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U.S. Representative Nathan Deal Votes "NO" on CHAMP ACT

Today, the House of Representatives considered the CHAMP ACT, a massive 465-page bill which made significant cuts to the Medicare program and relaxed requirements for citizenship verification to receive public benefits all under the guise of providing healthcare for children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) which provides health insurance for families who do not qualify for the Medicaid program.

"I do believe the SCHIP program has played an important role in providing low income children access to health insurance and that the federal government has a role to play to ensure low income children have access to health insurance. However, the CHAMP Act would allow children in families who make \$80,000 to \$100,000 to qualify for taxpayer assistance and continue coverage of adults in a children's program."

The legislation the Democrats brought to the House floor for consideration today also included troubling provisions related to illegal immigration.

"The Democrat's CHAMP Act removes the requirement in current law where States must document the citizenship status and identity of individuals applying for public assistance through the Medicaid program. This will make it easier for illegal and other currently nonqualified aliens to receive taxpayer-funded benefits and will provide even greater incentives for people to break our laws and enter our country illegally," Deal said.

Deal also expressed concern about another portion of the CHAMP Act which removes the requirement in current law that new legal permanent residents have to wait five years before enrolling in Medicaid or SCHIP. "Under this bill, legal alien residents will immediately be for social services," the Georgia Republican stated. Representative Deal goes on to state "In total, the Democrat SCHIP proposal would provide for over \$4 billion to pay for non-U.S. citizens."

Rep. Deal was the lead sponsor of a reform to the Medicaid program which requires States to verify that applicants for the program are indeed United States citizens and entitled to Medicaid benefits. Medicaid is a program which provides health insurance to low income Americans. Prior to Deal's reform, the program was subject to fraud and abuse as illegal immigrants were able to enroll in the program.

"Under certain immigration reform proposals, this provision in the CHAMP Act would allow up

to 20 million new legal permanent residents/former illegal aliens to become instantly eligible for Medicaid and SCHIP at a cost to the taxpayers of well over \$100 billion per year. This is simply not acceptable.”

“I was also strongly opposed to cutting the Medicare program by nearly \$200 billion, thus cutting services to over 3 million seniors”

“SCHIP should be reauthorized but this should not be done on the backs of America’s seniors and working families. SCHIP reauthorization can be achieved in a fiscally responsible way that doesn’t raise taxes and guarantees health insurance for low income families. The CHAMP ACT simply doesn’t do that.”

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